forest land and its assignment cannot be done without prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Kerala Forest Department has reported that 10836.7147 ha. of forest land has been given on lease to 8749 persons.

The Government of Kerala has appointed a Committee headed by the Additional Chief Secretary with the Revenue Secretary and Forest Secretary as members to oversee the eviction of all encroachers from the area. The State Government has also appointed one man Commission (Additional Chief Secretary to State Government) to go into all the aspects of the illegal occupation and to ascertain if there are any lapses on the part of the Government Officials.

Community forest management in Chhattisgarh

†2536. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has provided any loan to the Chhattisgarh Government under the Community Forest Management Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the area to be included, district-wise, under this programme; and

(c) the target fixed to complete the above work?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Impact of delayed Environmental Clearance

2537. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Central and State level projects of public importance are pending for approval of the department of Environment and Forests because of strict rules of this department;

(b) if so, the details of such projects; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the development work is not being carried out at full pace for want of approval of these projects and common people are suffering because of that?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Sixty eight industrial projects, eleven thermal power projects, nine river valley projects, forty five mining projects and twenty four infrastructure projects are currently awaiting environmental clearance.

(c) With a view to avoiding delays, the procedures of environmental appraisal have been streamlined and, normally, decisions on projects are taken within ninety days of receipt of complete information.

Residential Colony on Forest Land in Nainital

†2538. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a residential colony had been settled since independence on the land of Forest Department named Vindukhatta in Nainital district of Uttaranchal and that colony is expanding continuously;

(b) if so, the reasons for not regularising such colonies, even after enforcement of Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980; and

(c) whether Government are considering to construct a boundary or for fencing around the rest of the forest land, in order to protect the forest land from increasing encroachment?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As repored by Government of Uttaranchal in undivided Uttar Pradesh, about 55 ha. of Reserved Forest land was allotted to 129 families through a U.P. Government order in 1975 to encourage dairy development. No other family has been allotted any forest land at "Vindukhatta". However, about 3470.30 ha. forest land has been encroached at "Vindukhatta" from 1978 to 1983.

(b) According to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, In no case encroachments which have taken place after 24-10-1980 should be regularized. Further, the Supreme Court has restrained the Central Government from regularization of encroachments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.